

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 056013
ORIGIN ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-05 PRS-01 SP-02
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R 122035Z MAR 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 056013

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PFOR, PINT

SUBJECT: CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS ASK FOR US POLITICAL SUPPORT
FOR NEW MAGAZINE

REF: SANTIAGO 1489

1. WE AGREE WITH YOUR SUGGESTIONS IN REFTEL. SHOULD YOU
STILL DEEM IT WISE YOU MAY WISH TO DISCREETLY INDICATE TO
SELECTED GOG OFFICIALS OUR BELIEF THAT EXISTANCE OF "HOY"
MIGHT BE INTERPRETED BY WORLD OPINION THAT THE GOC PERMITS
FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION.

2. WE ALSO AGREE THAT WE SHOULD TRY TO DISCOURAGE ANY
PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FOR THE MAGAZINE FROM USG
OFFICIALS. AS YOU KNOW MANY JUNTA SUPPORTERS THINK OF THE
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PDC AS THE "AMERICAN" PARTY. WERE ANY USG OFFICIAL TO
MAKE SUCH A STATEMENT, IT WOULD ONLY CONFIRM THE JUNTA'S
SUSPICION THAT THE PDC HAS BEEN AND STILL IS AN INSTRUMENT
OF US POLICY. WE SHOULD NOT IDENTIFY OURSELVES WITH ANY
PARTY IN CHILE. FURTHER, ANY SUCH IDENTIFICATION MIGHT
CAUSE A BACKLASH OF REPRESSION AGAINST THE PDC, SOMETHING
WE ALL WANT TO AVOID. THUS, WE WILL ALERT NSC TO

ZALDIVAR'S PRESENCE AND PASS ALONG OUR RECOMMENDATIONS.

3. IF YOU SHOULD RECEIVE WRITTEN NOTIFICATION OF THE PUBLICATION OF "HOY", YOU MIGHT WANT TO SEND A CONGRATULATORY, NON-COMMITAL REPLY SIGNED BY THE AMBASSADOR, MUCH AS YOU WOULD TO ANY NEW MAGAZINE JUST STARTING PUBLICATION. WE WOULD ALSO ADVISE THAT THE AMBASSADOR CHOOSE AN APPROPRIATE FORUM TO MAKE A GENERAL STATEMENT ABOUT TRADITIONAL US VIEWS REGARDING FREEDOM OF THE PRESS. THIS WOULD CONFIRM WHAT YOU WOULD BE TELLING THE GOC INFORMALLY.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

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